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KINGSBRIDGE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1964

J. R. GILL AND SON LTD.
KINGSBRIDGE

Kingsbridge Urban District Council

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Council Offices, Manor House, Kingsbridge, S. Devon.

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ENGINEER, SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Quay House, Kingsbridge, S. Devon.

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KINGSBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year 1964

Medical Officer of Health: R. B. WALKER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health: W. H. COWPER, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector: L. J. HILL,

A.M.I.MUN.E., M.R.S.H.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Report on the health of the district for the year 1964.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in Acres)—1,147½.

Population—The Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population—3,270.

Number of inhabited houses at 31st March 1964 according to the Rate Book—1,062.

Number of unoccupied houses—39.

Rateable Value as at 1st April 1964—£120,968.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£484 10s. 11d.

Kingsbridge remains the social and economic centre of the South Hams area of South Devon.

The general health of the area continues to be good. There has been considerable development within the district during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births :

			Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	...	42	22	20
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
			—	—	—
			42	22	20

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 12.84.

Still Births	—	—	—
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Deaths	36	15	21
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Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 11.009.

Deaths from Maternal causes (heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):

				Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and still births)
*Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	...	nil	—

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	23.81
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				23.81
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				nil

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Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	23.81
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	...	...	...	...	23.81
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 live and still births)	...				23.81
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	6
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—

CAUSES OF DEATH

	M.	F.
1 Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	—	—
2 Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—
3 Syphilitic Disease	—	—
4 Diphtheria	—	—
5 Whooping Cough	—	—
6 Meningococcal Infections	—	—
7 Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8 Measles	—	—
9 Other Infective and Parasitic Disease	—	—
10 Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	—	1
11 Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	1	—
12 Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	—
13 Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	1
14 Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	2	1
15 Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	—
16 Diabetes	—	—
17 Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	4	5
18 Coronary Disease, Angina	2	1
19 Hypertension with Hearth Disease	—	1
20 Other Heart Diseases	3	5
21 Other Circulatory Disease	—	—
22 Influenza	—	—
23 Pneumonia	—	—
24 Bronchitis	—	—
25 Other Diseases of Respiratory System	—	—
26 Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—
27 Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	1
28 Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	—
29 Hyperplasia of Prostate	—	—
30 *Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—
31 Congenital Malformations	—	—
32 Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	1	4
33 Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	—
34 All other Accidents	—	—
35 Suicide	—	1
36 Homicide and Operations of War	1	—
	15	21

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

The Public Health Officers of the Authority are a Medical Officer of Health (also Medical Officer of Health of Plympton Rural District, Kingsbridge Rural District and Salcombe Urban District).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (occasional).

One full-time Engineer, Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

LABORATORY FACILITIES. The Public Health Laboratory Service provides a service at the South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Plymouth, for the investigation of communicable diseases and the examination of milk, water supplies, ice cream and foodstuffs, etc.

PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES. The Devon County health handbook gives details of the various services provided in the district by the County.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1964

Disease	Total Cases		
	Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Measles	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	8	—	—
	8	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1964

Age Periods	New cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

WATER SUPPLY. The supply provided by the South West Devon Water Board is adequate in quantity and of good quality. The water is tested frequently by the Board for contamination, copies of the results being forwarded to the District. The water is also treated at source to reduce plumbo solvency.

The supply contains practically no fluoride. The addition of fluoride has been discussed. There is still considerable resistance to this measure in the District despite the fact that all authoritative international medical and dental bodies are of the opinion that it is of great value as a public health measure, and that there is no risk attached to its use. It is amazing that those people with young children do not cry out more loudly for action.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. The development of new housing estates meant that three fairly large extensions of the sewerage system (two by private enterprise and one by the Council) were made during the year.

Toward the end of the year the Council authorised the Engineer to begin sampling, analysis and research into the sewerage system so that adequate information can be obtained to enable the future policy to be properly considered. Undoubtedly the treatment of the sewage to produce an effluent which can be put, if necessary, into the Estuary without harm or nuisance will be very expensive, nevertheless when other Authorities bordering the Estuary are taking steps to put only satisfactory effluents into it, and while the River Board are getting greater powers it becomes very necessary. Apart from these reasons the removal of the Town's sewage from the Estuary will be of great value to all the inhabitants, many think a value greater than the cost.

HOUSING. The work of laying out the roads and services for the Council's eleventh housing scheme started during 1964 and was about 60 per cent completed at the end of the year.

With the completion of scheme 10 the slum clearance programme halted, until more new houses become available. One house only was dealt with in 1964. Although the worst houses have now been dealt with, there are still some left which may have to be demolished.

FOOD

The numbers of types of food premises in the area are as follows :—

Greengrocer, 5 ; Grocer, 13 ; Butcher, 5 ; Restaurants, 5 ; Wet Fish Shops, 2 ; Fried Fish Shops, 2 ; Baker, 2.

In addition to the above, one person maintains premises for the reception, cleaning and preparation for sale of wet fish and thereafter sells from a properly constructed vehicle.

The number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, is as follows :—

Manufacture of Icecream	1
Storage of Icecream for sale	27
Preparation or manufacture of Sausages, etc.	7
Number of Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulation, 1954	3

The number of inspections of food premises in the year was 41. This number does not include re-visits where found necessary. The general standard of food premises in the town remains good.

The Method of Disposal of Condemned Food : In the rare cases where large amounts are required to be disposed of, this is done through a recognised firm specialising in the preparation of fertilizers, etc. In other cases, goods are removed by the refuse collection gang and buried at the disposal site.

Following the news of the Aberdeen Typhoid Outbreak, it was necessary for all those in the district who might be concerned in the sale or distribution of canned meat to be visited to ensure that suspected batches were withheld. I am grateful to record that there was full and happy co-operation by those concerned.

APPENDIX

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part :

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	251	—	2	1,141	—	—
Number inspected	243	—	2	1,118	—	—
All disease except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned			Nil			
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	33			19		
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease, etc.	13.6			1.7		
Tuberculosis only :			Nil			
Cysticercosis			Nil			

NUISANCES, Etc.

Number of complaints received :							
(a) alleging nuisances ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
(b) alleging housing defects ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	177
(c) other complaints ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Nuisances proved ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Minor housing repairs dealt with ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	219
Other complaints remedied ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Informal letters sent ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Statutory Notices ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Total number of inspections in connection with erection of new houses and conversions ...							
	...	...	...	...	...	...	138
Total number of inspections in connection with Public Health ...							
	...	...	...	...	...	...	173

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Part 1 of the Act

1. **INSPECTIONS** for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises (1)	No. in Register (3)	Inspect'ns (4)	Number of Written Occupiers Notices Prosec'd (5) (6)
<hr/>			
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	5	2	— —
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(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	43	8	— —
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(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out - workers' premises)	—	—	— —
<hr/>			
Total	48	10	— —

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

R. B. WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

November, 1965.

